

HUMAN SERVICES DEPARTMENT[441]

Adopted and Filed Emergency

Pursuant to the authority of Iowa Code section 249A.4, the Department of Human Services amends Chapter 78, “Amount, Duration and Scope of Medical and Remedial Services,” Iowa Administrative Code.

This amendment increases the Medicaid reimbursement rate for nonemergency medical transportation by car from \$.30 per mile to \$.34 per mile. Medicaid members are entitled to request reimbursement for travel expenses when they must travel outside their local community to obtain medical care. Due to the rise in gasoline costs from 2001 to 2005, the Department increased the mileage allowance from \$.21 per mile to \$.30 per mile effective November 1, 2005. In July 2005, the average gasoline price per gallon in Iowa was \$2.13. As of July 2008, the average price reached \$3.93 per gallon. This amendment aligns the reimbursement rate more closely with the actual cost of transportation.

This amendment does not provide for waivers in specified situations. Requests for the waiver of any rule may be submitted under the Department’s general rule on exceptions at 441—1.8(17A,217).

The Council on Human Services adopted this amendment on August 13, 2008.

The Department also finds that notice and public participation are impracticable and contrary to the public interest because Medicaid members urgently need relief from higher transportation costs in order to be able to receive needed medical care. Therefore, this amendment is filed pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.4(2).

The Department also finds that this amendment confers a benefit on Medicaid members by increasing transportation reimbursement. Therefore, this amendment is filed pursuant to Iowa Code section 17A.5(2)“b”(2), and the normal effective date of this amendment is waived.

This amendment is also published herein under Notice of Intended Action as **ARC 7123B** to allow for public comment.

This amendment is intended to implement Iowa Code section 249A.4.

This amendment became effective September 1, 2008.

The following amendment is adopted.

Amend subrule 78.13(5) as follows:

78.13(5) Transportation may be of any type and may be provided from any source.

a. Effective ~~November~~ September 1, 2005 ~~2005~~ 2008, when transportation is by car, the maximum payment that may be made will be the actual charge made by the provider for transportation to and from the source of medical care, but not in excess of ~~30~~ 34 cents per mile.

b. and c. No change.

[Filed Emergency 8/18/08, effective 9/1/08]

[Published 9/10/08]

EDITOR’S NOTE: For replacement pages for IAC, see IAC Supplement 9/10/08.